

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces any prior version.

1. (Original) A masking compound comprising a vulcanized rubber latex, at least one filler and aqueous ammonia.

2. (Original) The masking compound of Claim 1 characterized in that a film layer of the compound dries to form an elastic rubber membrane.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (New) The masking compound of Claim 1, wherein the vulcanized rubber latex comprises at least one rubber polymer selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic polyisoprene, sodium polysulfide, polychloroprene, butadiene-styrene copolymers, acrylonitrilebutadiene copolymers, ethylenepropylene-diene rubbers, copolymer of isobutylene and isoprene, polyacrylonitrile, silicone, epichlorohydrin and polyurethane.

9. (New) The masking compound of Claim 8, wherein the rubber polymer is natural polyisoprene or synthetic polyisoprene.

10. (New) The masking compound of Claim 1, wherein the filler comprises at least one of talc, barium carbonate, calcium carbonate, clay, silicon dioxide, aluminum oxide,

magnesium oxide, iron oxide, sodium oxide, magnese oxide, barium sulphate, mica, titanium oxide, carbon black, iron red, lithopone, cellulose fiber, christolite fiber, or kaolin.

11. (New) The masking compound of Claim 1, wherein the filler is present in an amount up to about 70 wt% based on the solid content of the masking compound.

12. (New) The masking compound of Claim 1, wherein the filler is present in an amount up to about 50 wt% based on the solid content of the masking compound.

13. (New) The masking compound of Claim 1, wherein the filler is present in an amount up to about 20 wt% based on the solid content of the masking compound.

14. (New) The masking compound of Claim 1, wherein the aqueous ammonia comprises up to about 20 wt% based on the total weight of the masking compound.

15. (New) The masking compound of Claim 1, further comprising a stabilizer.